

Application Serial No. 10/603,050
Reply to Office Action of September 20, 2004

PATENT
Docket: CU-3269

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The title of the present invention has been amended to a new title as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application before this amendment. Claims 1 and 4 has been amended, and Claims 9-14 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0043336 (Sasaki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,342,935 (Jang) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,567,144 (Kim). The "et al." suffix, which may appear after a reference name, is omitted in this paper.

Claim 4 is indicated as being allowable if it is rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Claim 4 has been written to include all limitations of the base Claim 1. There is no intervening claim. Accordingly, Claim 4 is considered to be in condition for allowance. Claims 9-14 (which are identical to Claims 2-3 and 5-8) depending from Claim 4 have been added. An indication of allowance of Claims 4 and 9-14 is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite: —wherein the protrusion has a middle section and a plurality of branch sections, every branch section extending from the middle section perpendicularly—.

As shown in Sasaki FIG. 4A, every one of the "strip-like electrode 8" does not

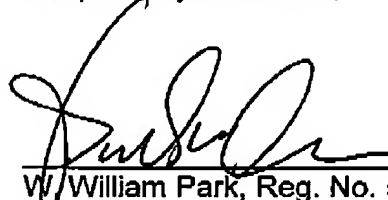
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extend from the connection electrode 12 in a perpendicular manner. In contradistinction, the claimed protrusion such as the protrusion 52 in FIG. 5 has a plurality of branch sections extending from the middle section in a perpendicular manner. This structural difference of the electrodes in the presently claimed invention would create a unique distortion of the electric field in the liquid crystal layer that is not taught or disclosed in the prior art references.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-14, now pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references. This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



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